

may not raise questions about the behavior of the Speaker.

It is interesting to note that there has been no appointment of an ethics committee. The behavior of the Speaker cannot in any way be addressed in that body.

It is interesting to note that the ruling of the Speaker has precluded a discussion of that question here in this body.

We need the appointment of an ethics committee, because perhaps that is the only place we can address it, and we also need the appointment of a special prosecutor to inquire into matters that cannot be addressed on the House floor.

#### DISRUPTIVE TACTICS

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that what we have had is a resorting to disruptive tactics in order to keep the Contract With America from coming to the floor, and the gentleman who spoke just before me, the gentleman from Michigan, indicates that the problem is that an ethics committee has not been appointed.

The problem is the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], the minority leader, has not yet appointed the minority side of the ethics committee. It would help if the minority would cooperate with getting forward with the legislative business of the House of Representatives.

We also are disappointed that today, in an effort to stop the Committee on Rules from reporting down the rule that will bring up the unfunded mandates legislation, the House moved to adjourn. Those are the kinds of disruptive tactics, I think, we can expect from the minority.

It is clear now that they cannot discuss these ideas well and so, therefore, what they are going to do is resort to disruptive activities on the floor.

That is a disappointment, and we would hope that maybe we could get back to the legislative business of the country.

#### AMERICANS BELIEVE IN FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it seems now that the Republican leadership has resorted to a new low in a shallow and shameful effort to stop discussion regarding the Speaker's avaricious book deals.

The majority has succeeded in gagging the minority Members of this House. Mr. Speaker, the American people believe in fundamental fairness. The gagging of Members of the House of Representatives and the House minority flies in the face of that fundamental belief.

To gag a Member of the House of Representatives is a first step toward a dictatorship of the majority which I am afraid my Republican colleagues have brought lock, stock, and gag.

Is the Republican leadership afraid to shed light on the book deal? Are they willing to kill off open discussion in order to protect Rupert Murdoch, the Speaker, and the infamous and outrageous book deal?

#### THE GANG THAT WOULDN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats, searching vainly for an issue to sidetrack the Contract With America, have now decided to attack the Speaker regarding a book he has not written yet. Instead of attacking Republicans for writing books, I suggest the Democrats write their own book. The suggested title might be "The Gang That Wouldn't Shoot Straight."

After all, Democrats are not being straight with the American people regarding their own agenda. They are not being straight on why they do not want to pass the balanced budget amendment. In fact, they want to spend more money. They are not being straight with the American people on why they opposed the unfunded mandates bill. In fact, they like unfunded mandates.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are the gang that will not be straight with the American people.

Republicans want to change the way Government works. Democrats want to change the subject.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO A BRIGHT NEW DAY?

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I came this day to support unfunded mandates. But unfortunately it is not on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, a crisis abounds in the House, an institution the American people look to to protect the sanctity of a Nation founded on democratic ideals.

Yet we come today facing the most egregious denial of the first amendment in a body sworn by oath to uphold it.

What has happened to a bright new day? What has happened to an open House, a direct reach to the American people to ensure their full participation?

Today we have been gagged, pierced by the sword of secrecy, kept from simply inquiring on behalf of the American people of the true facts of a pending issue, the book deal of the Speaker.

The House Committee on the Judiciary was shut down.

Mr. Speaker, when I go into a third-grade class in Houston, TX, help me, please, help me convey in good con-

science and in truth that there is no gag rule in the U.S. House of Representatives, and in fact that we do uphold the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American people sent a clear message to us in November. They elected a Republican majority to change the way Congress does business.

After 40 years of liberal big government, big spending politics, the American people said enough is enough. They want us to start working in a bipartisan fashion to solve the problems that Americans are facing each and every day.

We need to pass the unfunded mandates legislation. We need to pass a balanced budget amendment with a three-fifths supermajority.

Some do not seem to have gotten the message. They are going on about book deals and ghost historians, but they are missing the message. I have heard the people's message. They want us to change the culture of Washington.

It is too bad that some just want to change the subject.

#### WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS AFRAID OF?

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I planned to speak today on the need for this body to amend our Constitution to require a balanced Federal budget and to urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan consensus version offered by the gentlemen from Texas and Colorado and cosponsored by a majority of House Members including me.

Instead, I have been subject to remarks by Members of this body that I am attempting to thwart balancing the budget and unfunded mandates, adopt a line-item veto and other reforms I support.

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The committees are meeting as we on this floor are attempting to speak freely. Gagging the book deal on the House floor is not going to make it go away. It is an issue that has captured the public's attention. Why are Republicans so afraid of people talking about this? The Chair's ruling has made this the only house in the country where this issue is not being discussed.

#### LET US REFORM THIS CONGRESS

(Mr. TATE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)